

1. A method for providing a retinal stimulator to a mammalian eye having an internal limiting membrane, the method comprising

visualizing the internal limiting membrane of the eye,

locating the retinal stimulator between the internal limiting membrane and the retina, and

using the internal limiting membrane to secure the retinal stimulator.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the retinal stimulator comprises a drug.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the retinal stimulator comprises a device.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the device is an array for electrostimulation of the retina.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the device has external connectors.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the substance is in a delivery vehicle.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the delivery vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a capsule, a bead, a liposome, a sphere, a dissolvable biocompatible polymer sheet, and combinations thereof.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the delivery vehicle provides slow-release drug delivery.

9. A method for effecting treatment of a retina in a mammal comprising providing a therapeutic or preventive retinal stimulator between an internal limiting membrane and the retina to contact the retina and stimulate retinal cells to effect treatment.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the treatment effected is for a condition selected from the group consisting of retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, a degenerative retinal disease, and combinations thereof.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the substance is a semiconductor microphotodiode array.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the substance is an electrode array.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein the substance is a vehicle containing a drug.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of an α -adrenergic agonist, a β -adrenergic agonist, an antiinflammatory agent, an antiproliferative agent, and combinations thereof.
15. The method of claim 9 wherein the retinal cells stimulated are selected from the group consisting of photoreceptor cells, ganglion cells, neurofiber cells, and combinations thereof.

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

16. A method for enhancing vision in a patient having decreased vision due to retinal pathology or injury comprising locating a retinal stimulator substance between an internal limiting membrane and the retina, the substance capable of stimulating the retina to enhance visual function.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the substance is a photostimulated semiconductor microphotodiode array.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising providing a light source to stimulate the array.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the substance is an electrically stimulated electrode array.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising providing an electrical source to stimulate the array.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the patient has a retinal pathology selected from the group consisting of retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, a retinal degenerative disease, and combinations thereof.

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